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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Congressional

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CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
02/17/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300659	02/17/93	02/10/93	03/02/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congressman	J Pickle	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/LMM			
2-18-93			
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/17/93			

REMARKS: Direct response to constituents. Copy to office.

J.J. PICKLE
10TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4310

February 10, 1993

PRB
92-235
659

COMMITTEES:
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN, OVERSIGHT
HEALTH

Mr. Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

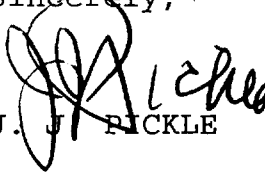
Dear Mr. Chairman:

I recently received the enclosed letters from Mr. Marcus Brooke, Mr. Robert Spivey, Mr. Robert O'Neill, and Mr. Homer F. Riley concerning the effect the proposed rulemaking (Docket 92-235) regarding Private Land Mobile Radio services may have on their use of radio-controlled aircraft.

I sure would appreciate your considering these concerns about this proposed rule before the final rulemaking is made. I know each constituent would appreciate knowing if this proposed rulemaking will indeed affect the radio frequencies available for radio-controlled aircraft and if so, how. Please forward me a copy of your response.

Thank you for your close attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


J. J. PICKLE

JJP:zms
Enclosures

2306 Cypress Point East
Austin, Texas 78746
January 28, 1993

The Honorable J. J. "Jake" Pickle
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

FEB 04 1993

Dear Mr. Pickle,

With all of the important issues you must deal with during the present session of Congress, there is a pending rule change proposed by the Federal Communications Commission that I would appreciate your help in addressing. The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM-PR Docket 92-235) which, if implemented, will have a profound adverse impact on hundreds of your constituents, and indeed hundreds of thousands of people in all parts of the country.

The impacted group, of which I am a very active member, are builders and flyers of radio-controlled model aircraft. This community of people has three nationally sanctioned clubs within Austin and many more in other areas of your district. We enjoy a worthwhile sport and hobby which is both educational and enjoyable. This sort of sport and hobby which allows people of all ages and circumstance, but particularly young people, the opportunity to learn about technology and develop craftsmanship skills. Many American young people have had a interest in science and technology fostered by working with model aircraft. The first man to set foot on the moon, Neil Armstrong, built and flew model aircraft as a boy and has acknowledged the importance of his participation in the sport to his career as an engineer and pilot.

The rules changes proposed by the FCC will jeopardize this sport and hobby by allowing the use of mobile transmitters operating at power levels and frequencies that will interfere with the model aircraft radios. While I realize that model aircraft radios do not have primary use in the spectrum, the present frequency allocations and sharing of frequencies with fixed land stations is workable and the model aircraft community is able to operate its aircraft safely. Just two years ago the FCC changed the requirements for model aircraft radios and rendered obsolete the virtually new radios that I owned. At that time I was obliged to spend several hundred dollars to upgrade radios to meet the new requirements. Prior to upgrading the radios, as a direct result of radio interference from legal higher-powered transmitters sharing the frequency allocation, two of my aircraft, with a combined value of \$400 crashed and were destroyed. The proposed FCC rules will again make this kind of situation all too frequent, but this time there will not be any way to improve my equipment to alleviate an interference problem. Many of the allocated frequencies will simply become unusable.

In addition to the monetary losses, there are issues of safety and liability to be considered. The national sanctioning organization for model aircraft clubs has stringent safety regulations that must be followed. In addition each local club promulgates rules for

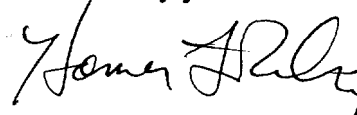
the safe operation of model aircraft at its permanent flying site. The result of these actions is an environment for safe and enjoyable flying. With the potential for radio interference that would result from the proposed FCC changes, the level of personal safety and property safety that are currently enjoyed would be seriously threatened. Radio interference from a powerful mobile radio transmitter could occur at any time rendering a model aircraft in the air uncontrollable and therefore dangerous.

Besides safety, there are issues of fair and equitable treatment of the model aircraft community. When the FCC changed the rules just two years ago, they burdened the average member of the model aircraft flying community with hundreds of dollars of expenses to replace or upgrade equipment. The proposed FCC rule changes will make many of those investments in equipment worthless by effectively rendering most of the presently allocated frequencies unsafe for use.

It is my hope that you and your colleagues in the Congress will help support those of us in your district and in the country that enjoy the hobby and sport of model aircraft flying by making our concerns known to the decision makers in the FCC. I will be expressing my concerns directly to the FCC and other members of the Texas delegation in Congress who represent me and my fellow enthusiasts. Your aid will be of great value. Please let me know if I can furnish you with any additional information. You may reach me during work hours at (512) 929-2091 and at other times at (512) 327-2350.

My best wishes to you and your staff at the beginning of this Congressional term. Without a doubt it will be one of the most significant in many years and provide continual challenges to you as the representative of this district.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Homer F. Riley".

Homer F. Riley